Reflections of Her Life

Elease "Big Mommy" Legree

Given By God:
October 25, 1931

Received Back Unto God:
February 24, 2001

A Home Going Celebration

March 2, 2001 12:30pm

Mc Glothen Temple Church of God in Christ

1443 Filbert Street Richmond, California 94801

Administrative Assistant John A. Jennings, Pastor
Officiating

The Order of Service

Musical Prelude	*Elder Dennis W. Braxton, Sr.*
Master of Ceremonies	*Superintendent J.W. Williams*
Officiants & Family Precessional (please stand)	
Invocation	*Elder Samuel Butler*
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament	*Elder Phil Hollins*
New Testament	*Elder Richard Foster*
Musical Selection ~ Choir	*McGlothen Temple Sanctuary Choir*
Expressions of Reflections	*Missionary Victoria Williams, McGlothen Temple Assistant Church Mother*
	Deacon Rufus Robinson, McGlothen Temple Chairman of Deacons
Musical Selection ~ Solo	*Sister Alfreda Campbell*
Women's Department	*Missionary Willie Mae Johnson, McGlothen Temple Church Mother*
	District Missionary Martha B. Hall, Greater Richmond District
Special Ministerial Reflections	*Elder Vernon Cooper, Pastor* *Mount Olive Church of God in Christ, San Diego, California* *Elder Malachi Hall, Pastor* *Mount Zion Church of God in Christ, Berkeley, California* *Bishop Joseph Wigfall* *Equator Faith Mission, Oakland, California*
Musical Selection ~ Solo	*Brother Rusty Watson*
Reading of Life's Reflection Tribute (read silently), Cards, & Special Acknowledgments	*Sister Brenda Shephard*
Musical Selection ~ Solo	*Sister Dimetrea Foster*
Eulogy	*Administrative Assistant John A. Jennings, Pastor* *McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ*
Parting View and Recessional	*Rose Manor Funeral Service*

Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies.
Proverbs 31:10

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,
so that he shall have no need of spoil."
Proverbs 31:11

Jessie & Elease "Big Mommy" Legree
"She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."
Proverbs 31:12

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;
yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy."
Proverbs 31:20

"Her husband is known in the gates,
when he sitteth among the elders of the land."
Proverbs 31:23

Reflections of Her Life

Elease "Big Mommy" Legree

In Tribute

Elease Legree was given by God unto the marriage union of Mr Fortune and Mrs Jessie Wigfall, on October 25, 1931 in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. She is born the nineth of nine children (seven brothers and one sister).

Her primary and secondary education were received in the Berkeley High School (grades Kindergarden through High School), in Moncks Corner Community, from which she received her Diploma. The Wigfall family regularly fellowship members of First Born Holiness Church of Moncks Corner, South Carolina. Being surrounded by the word and blessing of the Lord, helped Elease to easily understand the conviction and calling of the Lord. And at a youthful age of fourteen in 1945, Elease accepted Jesus Christ into her life.

The Wigfall family relocated to Brooklyn, New York later in 1945. Elease attended Mount Sinai Church of God in Christ, in Brooklyn, New York, Even though she relocated on several occasions and she was blessed to travel in her life time; Elease maintained a faithful and strong hold on to God's unchanging hand. She maintained a membership within the cities, where she moved onto... with First Born Holiness Church, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, Elder Gamble, Pastor; Mount Sinai Church of God in Christ in Brooklyn, New York, Bishop C.L. Sexton, Pastor; Mount Zion Church of God in Christ, Berkeley, California, Elder John A. Jennings, Pastor; Mount Zion Church of God in Christ, Berkeley, California, Elder Malachi Hall, Pastor, and McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ, Administrative Assistant John A. Jennings, Pastor. During her times of memberships, Sister Elease Legree would avail herself to assist in the Pastor's Aid and Mission Auxiliaries, where she proved to work tirelessly in each endeavor. Her latest highly noteworthy accomplishment, has been in the McGlothen Temple COGIC Mission Department, developing an every Friday full course free meal, for those who desired to eat. Additionally, with the assistance of her mission workers, they were able to gain assistance from the food bank to help stock the church's food pantry. Her work has always been accomplished with a beautiful and sweet smile.

Elease Legree met and was later courted by Mr Jesse James Legree in early 1954. She accepted his proposal of marriage; Jesse and Elease were joined in Holy Matrimony, on December 25, 1954 in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. To their marriage union seven children have been given unto them by God; they are four daughters ~ Toni, Gheri, Dorothea, and Josephine, who preceded her mother into the arms of God; three sons ~ Jesse James, Junior, Maurice, and Jeffery.

During Elease's life time, she continually extended a helping hand to many individuals; especially children. As a result of help, loving to help, and helping others, one God Daughter, Tinisha "Ave Marie" Williams, began to call her "Big Mommy". Elease accepted the affectionate calling, from Tinisha, and many, many other children calling her lovingly "Big Mommy"; even her children and grand children call her lovingly by this name. She demonstrated the sweet and kind"mother's love", by giving out the tempered chastisement, when necessary; yet, doing it with a whole lot of love.

"Big Mommy" was a excellent home maker, all of her life; providing every internal need of the family household. She knew how to cook, wash, clean, and attend to her children; plus accepting many "foster" and "special" children into her household; in addition to maintaining her loving relationship, with her husband. She was able to pass these and other quality traits onto her children, grand-children, and those foster and special children, who were in her care. Elease "Big Mommy" Legree, assuredly is a"Big Mommy" for many.

During Elease's recent illness, the whole family pulled together to insure "Big Mommy" was being cared for, twenty four hours a day; her husband, children, special children, and grand children all pitched in, returning her the loving care she often gave caring for them.

Each person is given as a gift from God and is returned unto Him: Elease "Big Mommy" Legree has been given and has been returned unto God. Those who shall cherish her lovingly in their hearts are: Jesse James Legree, Senior ~ her husband of 47 years; her three sons ~ Jesse James Legree, Junior of Long Island, New York, Jeffery Karl Legree (wife ~ Collette Legree) of Fairfield, California, Maurice Legree (wife ~ Donna Legree) of Richmond, California ; her three daughters ~ Dorothea Murray (husband ~ Minister Kevin Murray) of San Diego, California, Gheri Legree of Richmond, California, and Toni Legree of Richmond, California; and her son in love Roland Maples.

Her three brothers ~ Bishop Joseph Wigfall (wife ~ Bertha Wigfall) of Oakland, California, Herbert Wigfall (wife ~ Rosabell Wigfall) of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and Scipio Wigfall (wife ~ Lenora Wigfall)of Richmond, California. The remaining members (her Father, mother, sister, and three brothers) of Elease's family preceded her into the arms of God.

Her fourteen Grand children ~ Jason Jamal Maples, Jeffery Karl Legree, Junior, Deshaun Karl Legree, Johnae' Elease Jackson, Ashley Breann Legree, Dijon Ezra Legree, Noell Nicole Murray, Emperise Jade Legree, Iesha LeAnn Murray, Johnae' Elease McDonald, Cherell Josephine Murray, Paris Josephine Legree, Matthew Pleas A. Murray, and London Legree. Her two long term foster children ~ Trinette Williams and Aubrey Williams, plus many short term foster children, special children, and God children.

Also, numerous nieces, nephews, saints, and friends, are left to cherish her love, in memory. We love Her, but God Loves Her best.

"Big Mommy"

The Loves of Your Life

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain : but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands ; and let her own works praise her in the gates."
Proverbs 31:30 ~ 31

"Big Mommy"

Your Grand Children

"Strength and honour are her clothing ; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
She openenth her mouth with wisdom ; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eatheth not the bread of idleness.
Her children arise up, and call her blessed ; her husband also, and he praiseth her."
Proverbs 31:25 ~ 28

A Loved One's Reflections

My "Big Mommy", my God Mother, my Friend.
You were there for me, through the thick and thin.

Sitting here, remembering
when my mother would have my punishment, to begin;
I would sneak and call you, and that punishment would, then end.

All your words of encouragement,
got me through the wonder years.
"You can kill a person with kindness;
And make the enemy your friend."

Those same words, bring me Sun Shine, this day.
I sit here smiling, because I know, you're in a better place.

"Big Mommy", your song will always reign in my heart.
"What Ever You Need, God's Got It."
And I know, your love will shine in many, many hearts.

Love Always, Erica Coates
Your God Daughter

Pall Bearers

Craig Brown
Lonnie Holmes
Lawrence Hall
Bacchus Coates
Alfred Jackson
Lawrence Williams

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, California 94803

Final Arrangements

Entrusted To
Rose Manor Funeral Service
3331 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, California 94804

Acknowledgments

The Family of Mrs Elease "Big Mommy" Legree wishes to acknowledge, with deep appreciation the many prayers, cards, telephone calls, comforting messages, floral tributes, and other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time, in thought and in deed.

A more personal acknowledgment will be made at a later date.